REMARKS

In the Office Action Summary, the Examiner indicated that "Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33" are pending.

Applicants respectfully object to the Examiner's statement regarding the status of the application for the following reasons.

In the present application, Applicants elected species I (Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35) in response to the Restriction Requirement. However, none of the claims has been cancelled. See Response to Election of Species Requirement filed April 18, 2003. Accordingly, all of Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to make such an acknowledgement.

In the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled, accordingly.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended for clarity.

No new matter has been added, and thus entry of the present Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1 and 3-36 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph Nos. 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33 as amended are not indefinite.

Regarding the phrase "heat of fusion," Applicants respectfully submit that the phrase is well known in the art, as evidenced by Naito et al (U.S. Pat. No.4,981,760). For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants attach herewith a copy of Naito et al. As described in Naito et al, an endotherm (defined as "heat of fusion" in the present application) at a peak is "a quantity of heat of absorption in the peak area between temperatures at each of which the thermogram falls to the minimum between endothermic peaks each observed in the higher or lower temperature side than the range in which the endothermic peak should be present" (column 8, lines 30-36; Figs.).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to understand the meanings of "an amount of heat of fusion" and "a total amount of heat of fusion" as recited in the present invention. That is, the total area of the peak in DSC chart corresponds to a total amount of heat of fusion, and T_{50} is a temperature at which the total area of the peak is evenly divided. Since the total area of the peak is evenly divided, T_{50} value calculated from a lower temperature side is the same as that calculated from a higher temperature side.

Further, Applicants have in the Amendment, amended Claim 1 to delete the recitation of "a lower temperature side."

Regarding Claim 11, Applicants have in the Amendment, amended Claim 11 to recite --A laminate film...comprises as an interlayer (I) a layer...and a surface layer (II)--, to further clarify the relationship between an interlayer and a surface layer.

Regarding Claim 13, Applicants submit that the language reciting "A laminate film...comprises an interlayer (I) and a surface layer (II)" is reasonably clear.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-4, 9, 15, 23 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kuroda et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,079,273).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3-4, 9, 15, 23 and 31 as amended are not anticipated by Kuroda et al. As mentioned above, Applicants have in the Amendment, amended Claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2, which was not included in the rejection. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 7 of the Office Action, Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. Further, in Paragraph No. 8 of the Office Action, Claims 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kuroda et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 11, 13, 17, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 33 and 35 as amended are not obvious over Kuroda et al for the following reasons.

A peak observed at the range of 30 to 100°C in a dynamic viscoelasticity measurement in the present invention is caused by an alicyclic hydrocarbon. The softening temperature and the peak of the present invention do not correspond to those of Kuroda et al. Even if a cyclopentadiene type petroleum resin having a softening temperature of 160°C or more is compounded with a polypropylene in Kuroda et al, the peak does not present in the range of 30 to 100°C.

Kuroda et al discloses improving shrinkage by stretching and foaming a film. However, the film of Kuroda et al is completely different from the film of the present invention, which is a synthetic paper.

Kuroda et al describes that "a large amount of the cyclopentadiene type petroleum resin must be blended in order to produce therefrom an opaque molding...can only provide a film product of low commercial value with an insufficient opaqueness..." See column 4, line 58 to column 5, line 2. That is, it is preferable in Kuroda et al that the film is opaque. Since foaming makes a fine pore into a film, opaqueness is essential in the invention of Kuroda et al.

On the other hand, in the present invention, stretching is applied to obtain transparency and other well-balanced properties of a film. See page 61 of the specification of the present invention, 1st full paragraph. Stretching does not lead to foaming and opaqueness.

Further, Kuroda et al discloses the use of a petroleum resin in Comparative Examples, whereas a petroleum resin is used in the inventive Examples of the present invention.

Specifically, Alcon P125 and P140 are used in an amount of 20wt% in inventive Examples 1 and 2 of the present invention, respectively. On the contrary, in Kuroda et al, Alcon P125 and P140 are used in an amount of 20wt% in Comparative Examples 7 and 8, respectively. As a result, heat shrinkage at 100°C is 52.2% in inventive Example 1 of the present invention (Alcon P125), 54.2% in inventive Example 2 of the present invention (Alcon P140), 18% in Comparative Example 7 of Kuroda et al, and 18% in Comparative Example 8 of Kuroda et al.

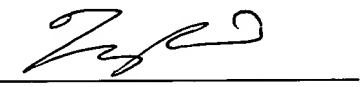
As the results clearly shown, the present invention is excellent in terms of shrinkability. Applicants believe that the significant advantage in shrinkability is mainly caused by Requirement (3) as recited in Claim 1.

In view of the above, the presently claimed resin composition for producing a heat-shrinkable film having a large shrinkability and transparency is not obvious over Kuroda et al. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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